

Economic Development Committee Minutes
January 7, 2014 – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Lawler; Supervisors Daly, Johnson, Kinowski, Lewza, Martin and Sausville; Ryan Moore, Deputy Administrator; Lisa Scaccia, Employment & Training; Jason Kemper, Planning; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney.

Chairman Lawler called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Ms. Daly the minutes of the December 14, 2013 meeting were approved. Mr. Lewza abstained.

Mr. Lawler announced the appointment of Supervisor Daly as committee Vice Chairman.

Mr. Lawler said the Chairman has included three major tasks for the committee this year which include the completion, adoption and implementation of the Strategic Economic Development Plan; developing a plan to work with or to incorporate the Startup New York effort by the Governor; to learn about it and see how it could work for Saratoga County, what part of that initiative would be available to the County, and how to bring it together; and how to keep the progress that has been seen at the Luther Forest Technology Corporation moving forward. He said the county wants to be a part of that, and having a relationship between Saratoga County and Luther Forest Technology Corporation, is important.

Mr. Lawler said all the initiatives are going to have to move forward at the same time. He proposed breaking those three tasks out into three subcommittees to include the following:

LFTC Subcommittee

Supervisor Kinowski
Supervisor Grattidge
Supervisor Lewza

Startup New York Subcommittee

Supervisor Daly
Supervisor Johnson
Supervisor Grattidge

Strategic Economic Development Plan Subcommittee

Supervisor Lawler
Supervisor Daly
Supervisor Johnson

Mr. Lawler said the subcommittees are not there to take independent action, but to report back to the committee for discussion and action.

Mr. Kemper said there is a process that takes place every October with regard to the Agricultural Districts, where notices are sent out to all landowners who have expressed interest to participate. He said there are two main agricultural districts in the county, with seven petitions received from individual landowners to participate in an Ag District. A request was made to set a Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Johnson to set a Public Hearing on February 12, 2014, at 4:55 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Room, for the proposed amendments to the Saratoga County Consolidated Agricultural Districts. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper said this is the time of year for the contract with Cornell Cooperative Extension for the MS4 Stormwater Program where they help municipalities around the county with their MS4 programs. The \$50,000 that the County pays Cornell to do this is in the 2014 budget, and serves as the local match to apply for additional funding for MS4 programs.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Kinowski to authorize the Chairman to enter into a renewal agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension to manage the MS4 Stormwater Management Program at a cost not to exceed \$50,000. Unanimous.

Mrs. Scaccia distributed handouts with regard to the Disability Employment Initiative to all committee members for their review. She said the funding for the program comes from the US Department of Labor, going through the State Department of Labor and then to the County. She said the WIB, from Warren, Washington and Saratoga County has been selected to receive a Disability Program Coordinator at each of the centers for the next three years. Their job will be to help individuals with disabilities get whatever support services they need in order to get back to work. Mrs. Scaccia said her office will be submitting an RFP on January 20, 2014 and will respond back at the next committee meeting with their recommendation.

Mrs. Scaccia said there is currently an open position in the Employment and Training office for a Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist whose job is to serve Veterans and help them get back to work. She said the position has been vacant since August 29, 2013, where they are continuously being told that the position is on hold by the State. She said this is a crucial position in the office, even though the county has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state, Veterans and people with disabilities or disabled Veterans are a highly underserved population. The committee suggested that a letter be drafted and sent to the Legislative and Research Committee. Mrs. Scaccia said she would formulate the letter and forward it to the committee for consideration.

Mr. Lawler said TIP Strategies will be in the county on Tuesday where the Economic Development Committee will meet with them at the Malta Diner at 7:30a.m. TIP Strategies

will then meet with different groups throughout the day, including some key community contacts, supervisors, etc.

Mr. Lawler introduced Mr. Tucker, President of the Center for Economic Growth, stating that Saratoga County has joined CEG. Mr. Tucker said CEG is the eleven county regional economic development organization which was created more than 25 years ago by leaders in business, government, education and the not for profit sector. He said the Center for Economic Growth works very closely with many partners and stakeholders, and has worked closely with projects in Saratoga County including AMD and Global Foundries. Mr. Tucker said the Center for Economic Growth consists of 300 members in business, government, education and the not for profit sector who help to grow existing companies as the regional technology development center, which is one of ten NY START driven entities in the State. He said the new strategic plan focuses on entrepreneurship, infrastructure, workforce and education working very closely with the Greater Capital Region Workforce Investment Board through a grant with both BOCES superintendents on a K-12 initiative with Global Foundries.

Mr. Lawler said the most immediate help that the Center can give the County would be to help the County to open up discussions with the State, and getting people to look at the County's Strategic Plan.

Ms. Daly suggested that that a CRC or IDA report be presented to the committee on a regular basis.

On a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Kinowski the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom